

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph on page 13 under the Detailed Description Section, beginning with the words “In one embodiment” with the following paragraph:

In one embodiment, a proprietary communication protocol may be used in tandem with open access to the simulation portal 38A to facilitate the use of a particular suite of design products that produce a common output format. Access to the simulation portal 38A may thereby be limited to those simulation engines that can communicate using the proprietary protocol and that are running on the computers that have network access to the simulation portal 38A. For example, simulation portal 38A may include a communication server 35 that uses XML to implement a proprietary communication protocol. In such an embodiment, although simulation portal 38A may be electronically accessed via global electronic network 78A, only those simulation engines that can communicate with the proprietary protocol may participate in the open simulation.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 13 under the Detailed Description Section beginning with the words “Referring again to” with the following paragraph:

Referring again to Fig. 2A, the file uploading process may be managed by simulation controller 37 such that the simulation files are appropriately stored and allocated to the proper simulation storage area 67 of the data storage area 66A. In one embodiment, simulation controller 37 may manage simulation files and data through the use of text files in a hierarchical file system. Alternatively, simulation controller 37 may manage simulation files and data through the use of standard mailbox files, for example those used in a typical UNIX® system.

Other alternative means for managing and storing simulation files and data may also be employed by simulation controller 37, without departing from the present invention.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 19 under the Detailed Description Section beginning with the words “Also connected to” with the following paragraph:

Also connected to the network is the simulation portal 38C. The simulation portal 38C may include a data storage area 66C. In one embodiment, the simulation portal 38C is openly accessible to any design team connected to the global electronic network 78C. For example, the simulation portal 38C may be implemented using XML and the simulation portal 38C may support the HTTP protocol. Furthermore, the data storage area 66C may be a hierarchical directory system for storing simulation data files. Thus, any design team connected to the global electronic network 78C and supporting the HTTP protocol (e.g. any design team that is Web enabled) may access the simulation portal 38C. Therefore, by accessing the simulation portal 38C and writing data files to the data storage area 66C design teams at computers 70, 72, 74, and 76 may communicate simulation data to each other through the simulation portal 38C.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 19 under the Detailed Description Section beginning with the words “In one embodiment” with the following paragraph:

In one embodiment, the data storage area 66C may include a file system hierarchy of directories. This hierarchy may allow the simulation portal 38C to keep track of multiple simulations. For example, a first simulation may store its simulation data files in a discrete directory of the file system hierarchy. A second simulation may similarly store its simulation data files in a discrete directory of the file system hierarchy. Thus, both simulations may have

discrete directories to store simulation data and at the same time share a common root level in the overall directory structure of the simulation portal 38C.

The above-presented replacement paragraphs do not add any new matter. Replacement paragraphs are presented only for the purpose of correcting typographical errors.